

Town of Camden
Community & Economic Development Advisory Committee Agenda (CEDAC)

Monday, December 20, 2010, 5:30 PM
Washington St. Conference Room

Meeting Notes

Attendees

CEDAC and Liason: Peter Gross, Mathew Eddy, Rick Bates, Don Abbot, Kipp Wright, Jim Fullilove, Roberta Smith, Lowrie Sargent, Martin Cates, Dan Bookham, John Arnold

Presenters: Charlie Colgan, Ian Colgan

Public: Don White, Chris Gates, Patricia Eagen, Kathleen Gilbert, Wendy Pelletier, Jim Pelletier, David Lyman, Eileen Wilkinson

1. Minutes of 11/10/10 and 12/9/10 were approved.
2. DCI Presentation
Ian presented some of the key findings of their study which will be more fully developed in the final report. Ian was looking for feedback from the CEDAC in advance of the January 10, 2011 public presentation.

Key Development Concepts

1. Leverage Camden's Quality of Life
2. Focus regionally as much as locally
3. Retain tourism
4. Regional Transportation Connectivity
5. Target series of industries: incubating and growing focused technology, media, and coastal technology

Parking analysis covering five scenarios

1. Existing Situation with structured parking
2. Eliminate waterfront parking
3. Knox Mill at full occupancy as offices
4. Mechanic Street parking area development
5. No waterfront parking and parking structure

Other specific objectives for the Development Director

1. Parking structure
2. Work with Knox Mill owners on occupancy
3. Developing alternatives to the Tannery Site for in-town development

4. Developing options for the vacant building on the north end of the waterfront
5. Downtown streetscape improvements

One important tool for accomplishing these objectives would be consideration of an economic development corporation. This could be an existing corporation like KWRED or town developed corporation that could depending on the charter issue bonds and hold land. It could provide an opportunity to run specialized tasks and develop funding for managing properties including town parking.

The CEDAC and members of the public asked a number of questions during the presentation.

The feedback appeared to be neutral or positive.

Ian may spend a little more time in the parking study developing some options for structured parking at the Mechanic Street site.

3. Brief Reports

Don White of Gateway 1 reported that he was looking for Select Board input of the transit study January 20. The DCI report would provide some input for this study.

Mathew reported that there is a lot of interest in the Tannery Site.

Roberta reported that 29 applications have been received for the Camden Development Director job. A CEDAC subcommittee will be vetting the applications to determine who should be interviewed.

Mathew reported that he has spoken with buyers of all the Knox Mill properties.

4. Public comment

Eileen asked for a clarification on technical incubator

5. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM